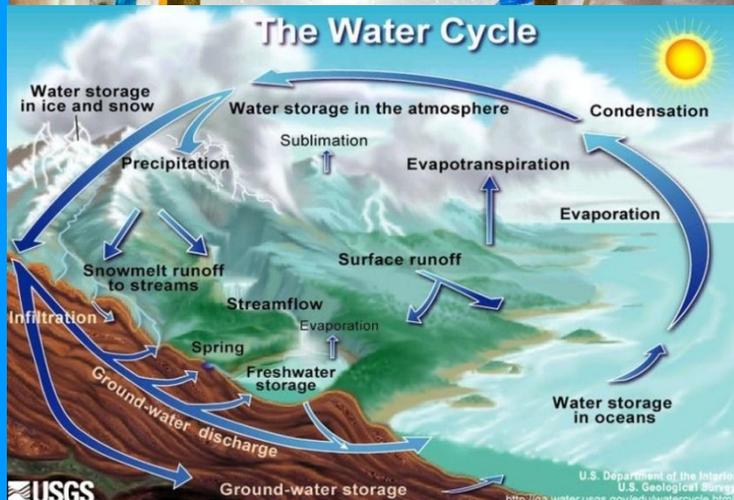


# THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



## Stewardship of Fresh Water January 11, 2026

*Peace Lutheran Church*



*West Seattle, Washington*

*The water that flows into our Font and the waters that flow on Earth are connected. As we mark the Baptism of our Lord we recommit ourselves to the careful stewardship of the fresh water on Earth. In the A.I. revolution, data centers are being built all over the country and often in places where fresh water is less abundant. These data centers consume billions of gallons of fresh water each year, raising the question of whether this kind of water use is sustainable for the long haul. Our baptismal vocation includes not only stewarding the lives of ourselves and others, but caring for the watersheds which supply the water needed to sustain life.*



*We celebrate Christ's presence in the Earthly gifts of the Sacramental Table. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.*

# ✝ GATHERING ✝

P – *Presider*    C – *Congregation*    A – *Assisting Minister*    L – *Lector*  
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal*    ACS – *All Creation Sings*    GH – *Gather Comprehensive*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM    *Please rise in body or spirit as we gather at the font.*

*Rainwater collected from West Seattle locations is poured into the font  
as we celebrate the sacred gift of water and our baptismal life.*

P    Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—the Duwamish and Green Rivers,  
Fauntleroy and Longfellow Creeks, and all the water that flows into the Salish Sea.  
We praise you, O God, for water.

**C    We praise you, O God, for water!**

P    We praise you, O God, for water that falls as rain and snow, that quenches our thirst,  
nourishes animals and plants, and bears salmon to the sea and back again.  
We praise you, O God, for water

**C    We praise you, O God, for water!**

P    We praise you, O God, for our water stories—a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that  
drowned the enemy, a river that healed leprosy. We praise you, O God, for water.

**C    We praise you, O God, for water!**

P    We remember the waters that touched and shaped the life of Jesus—his baptism in the  
Jordan River, his calming of the Sea of Galilee, his drinking from Jacob’s Well, his healing  
at the pool of Bethesda, his washing the disciples’ feet. We praise you, O God, for water.

**C    We praise you, O God, for water!**

P    We praise you, O God, for the waters of this font, for through this water you have birthed  
us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit.  
We praise you, O God, for baptism.

**C    We praise you, O God, for baptism!**

P    O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining the Earth. O God, you are the River, saving us from  
death. O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.  
We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.

**C    Amen and amen!**

## GATHERING HYMN

### *Crashing Waters at Creation*

ELW #455

1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,  
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,  
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,  
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.

first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age—chan - nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The abounding grace of the incarnate Christ, the steadfast love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Creator God, our Source and our Goal, with ancient stars you seeded Earth with water, establishing seas from which all life would evolve. And at this end of the ages you became one with us, making your appearance through the waters of Mary's womb. As you claimed Jesus as beloved Son in Jordan's waters, make us, too, your beloveds, and empower us by your Spirit to be your faithful followers, living out our baptismal vocation through care-full stewardship of Earth's precious waters. Through him in whom we find fullness of life, both now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE *Please be seated*

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection*

**P** Creator of all,

**C** **we confess that we have become alienated from Earth, our home.**

**We have treated her like an infinite warehouse of unlimited resources—ours for the taking. We have regarded her fresh waters as an endless supply—the source for our bottomless appetites.**

**P** We have soiled her waters with toxins, overdrawn her aquifers, paved over her wetlands, and filled her oceans with plastic.

**C** **The symptoms of our greed are evident in the crises unfolding throughout our planet home. And we are sorry.**

**P** Show us a new way to live.

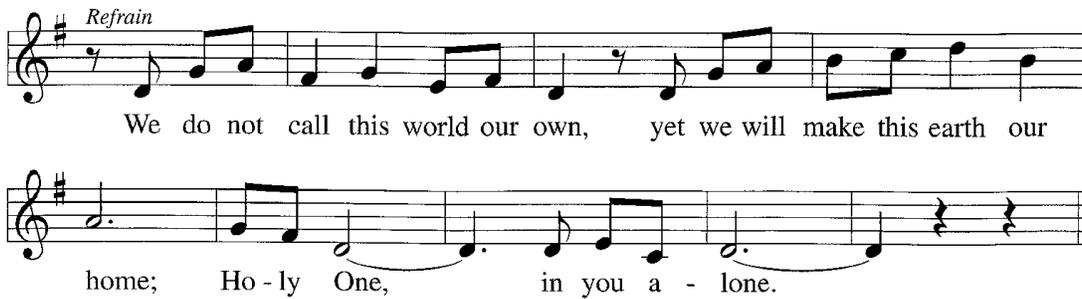
**C** **Enable us to start again—loving Earth, recognizing her limits, contemplating her gifts.**

P Siblings in Christ, the Holy One has heard our confession and offers us a way forward. The ripples of Divine grace touch every pain and reach every shore, transforming our fear into faith and our complacency into action. Because the incarnate Christ walks with us still, we can begin anew to love Earth as our home.

C **Creator, lead us to love Earth as our home and to steward her waters with care. Restore us to our calling as partners and tenders of all that you have made. Lord, teach us to care! Amen.**

All sing:

Refrain



We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.

## + WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-3a, 10-11

Janet Cruse

*Like Earth's perpetual water cycle, God's word to those in exile initiates a cycle of renewal.*

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

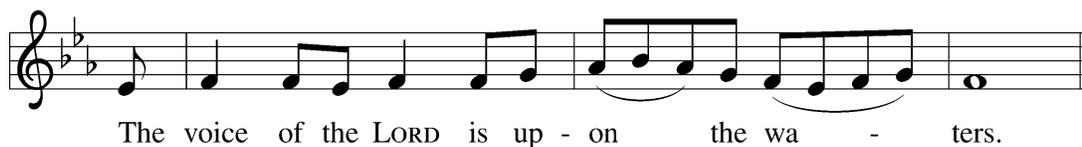
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

L Holy wisdom. Holy word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29 CHORAL PSALMODY *Congregation joins on each refrain*

M. Mummert



The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

## CHOIR

1. Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.  
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.  
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. **Refrain**
2. The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe, and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord, all are crying, "Glory!" **Refrain**
3. The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.  
O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace. **Refrain**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel.*

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.  
C **Glory to you O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

arr. John Carter

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Pastor Erik

**SERMON**

Pastor Erik Kindem

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring*

ACS #1046



1 As riv - ers flow from a dis - tant spring  
 2 As trees rise up from the for - est floor  
 3 As woods make shel - ter with - in its shade  
 4 So let us praise you, Cre - a - tor God,



to quench our thirst and feed the earth,  
 by roots that feed each limb a - bove,  
 for beasts to feed and birds to nest,  
 for worlds that wit - ness to your care,



so let our lives flow from you, our Source,  
 so let our lives rise in praise to you  
 so let our lives be a shel - tered space,  
 that show your pres - ence in ev - 'ry place,



to coun - ter death and nur - ture birth.  
 from hearts we root in your deep love.  
 a ref - uge for the worn to rest.  
 your glo - ry shin - ing ev - 'ry - where.

**THE PRAYERS**

Larry Cruse

A As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*Petitions are offered, ending with the response:*

A Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer**

*When all petitions have been offered:*

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**C Amen.**



*Congregation:*

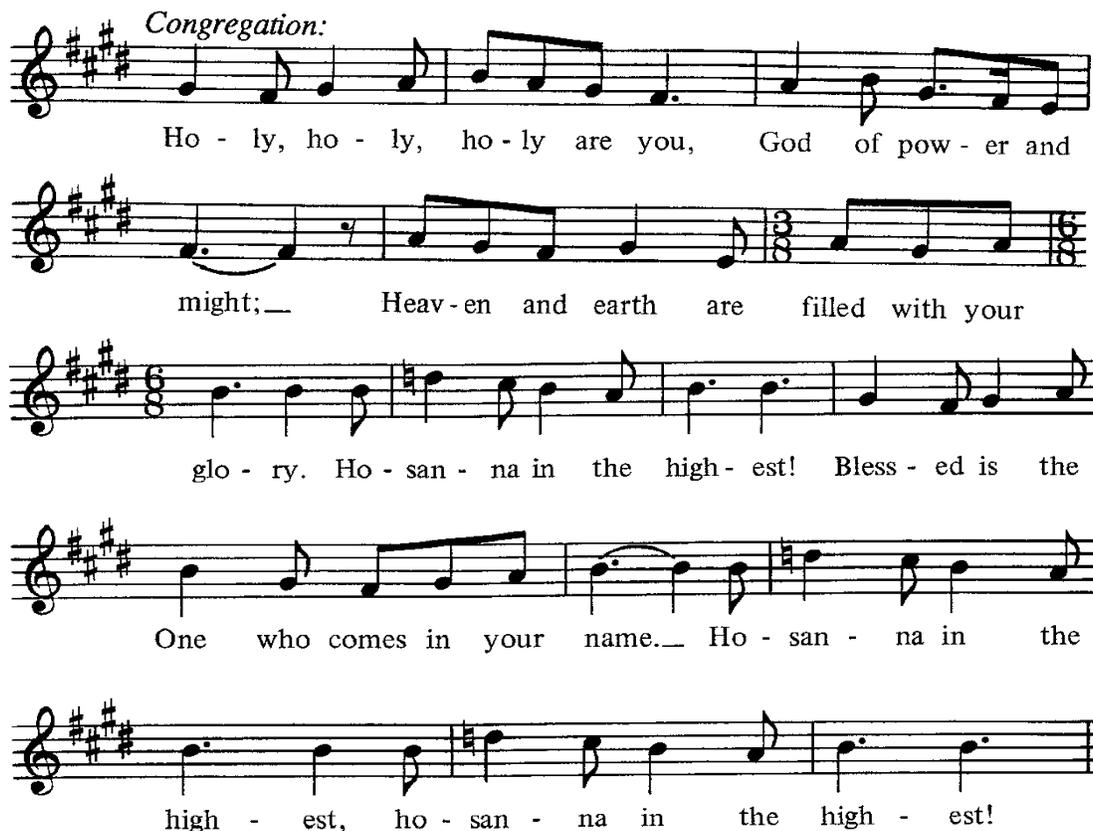


thanks to the Lord our God. It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

P ♪ It is our duty and delight... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might;— Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
One who comes in your name.— Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, Creator and Sustainer of all,  
you formed the Earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light; you nourished the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed your Chosen people  
and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through baptismal waters, yoking us to the life, death,  
and resurrection of your Beloved Son, Jesus, who in the night in which he was

handed over to death, took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying:

**C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**C This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection,  
which renews the face of the earth.  
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.  
Satisfy the thirst of every living thing with your Living Water, and fit us for service as  
keepers and partners of all you have entrusted to us, through the same Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(ecumenical)*

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

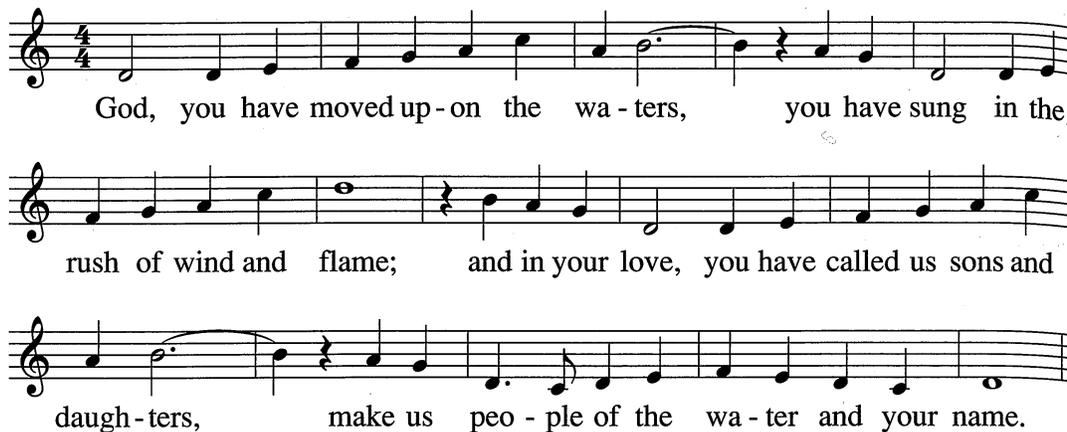
P The incarnate Christ embeds himself in these gifts of bread and wine.  
Come to the table; taste and see.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

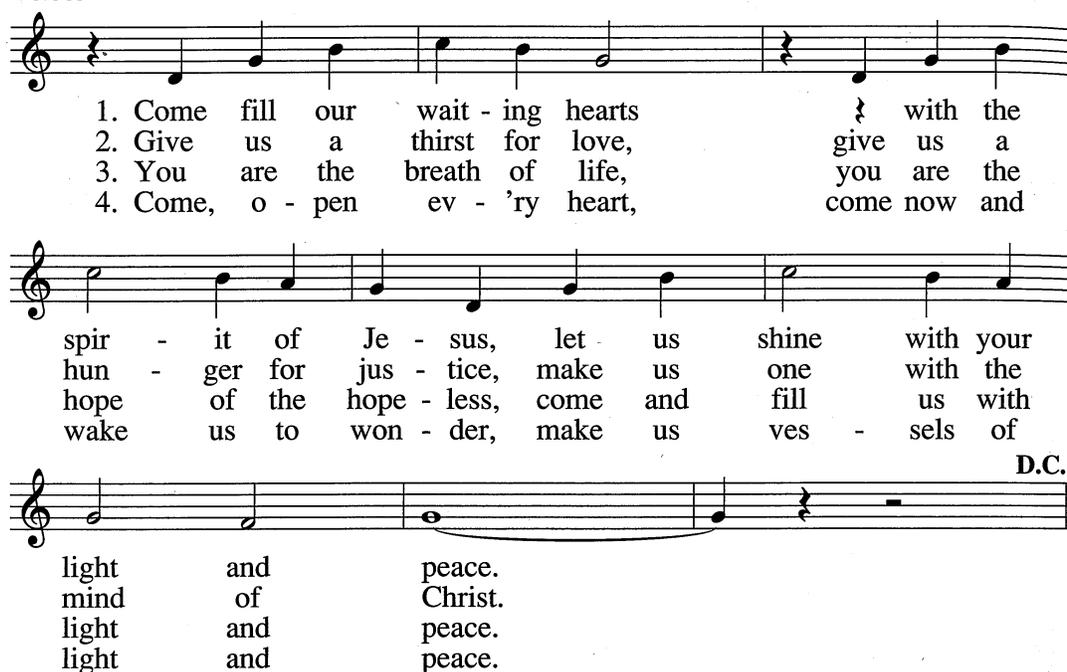
*We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.*

## Refrain



God, you have moved up-on the wa-ters, you have sung in the  
rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and  
daugh-ters, make us peo-ple of the wa-ter and your name.

## Verses



1. Come fill our wait-ing hearts with the  
2. Give us a thirst for love, give us a  
3. You are the breath of life, you are the  
4. Come, o-pen ev-ry heart, come now and  
spir-it of Je-sus, let-us shine with your  
hun-ger for jus-tice, make us one with the  
hope of the hope-less, come and fill us with  
wake us to won-der, make us ves-sels of  
D.C.  
light and peace.  
mind of Christ.  
light and peace.  
light and peace.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Radiant God,

C we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, and in the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## + SENDING +

## BLESSING

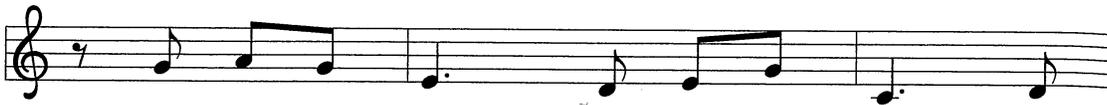
P The Triune + God, Holy One, Holy Three, grant you grace, mercy, and peace overflowing, that you may walk with sacred manner upon Earth.

C May it be so! Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

*In Sacred Manner*

**ACS #1071**  
TUNE: SEATTLE



1 In sa - cred man - ner may we walk up -  
 2 In sa - cred man - ner may we see the  
 3 In sa - cred man - ner may we touch the  
 4 In sa - cred man - ner may we hear the  
 5 In sa - cred man - ner may we live a -  
 6 In sa - cred man - ner may we walk up -



on the fair and lov - ing earth, in beau - ty move, in  
 lu - mi - nous and lov - ing stars, with won - der and with  
 sus - pir - ant and lov - ing green, give hon - or and give  
 pound - ing waves, the sear - ing fire, the rush - ing wind, the  
 mong the wise and lov - ing ones, sit hum - bly as at  
 on the fair and lov - ing earth, in beau - ty move, in



beau - ty love the liv - ing round that brought us birth. We  
 awe be - hold their ev - er - new cre - a - tive pow'rs. The  
 grat - i - tude for shade, for bloom, for gift un - seen. The  
 sing - ing night, the for - est hymn, the lov - ing choir. The  
 sa - ge's feet, by four-legged, finned, and feath - ered ones. The  
 beau - ty love the liv - ing round that brought us birth. We



stand on ho - ly ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.  
 heav - ens show us God. The heav - ens show us God.  
 trees shall shout for joy. The trees shall shout for joy.  
 morn - ing stars shall sing. The morn - ing stars shall sing.  
 an - i - mals will teach. The an - i - mals will teach.  
 stand on ho - ly ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Love the Earth.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

*In consideration for those who wish to remain for the postlude,  
those who depart are invited to do so quietly.*



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastor Erik Kindem's mobile phone number: 206-930-3172  
Pastor Erik Kindem's email: Pastor@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org  
Peace Lutheran web page: www.PeaceLutheranSeattle.org  
Kathleen Keyes Office Admin. Office@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org  
Church Office hours: Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm  
Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director 206-427-6496  
Jon Lackey, Minister of Music Music@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org  
Find us on  at **People of Peace Lutheran**

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Liturgical Assistant	Larry Cruse
Acolyte	Brooks Johnson
Lector	Janet Cruse
Children's Sermon	Pastor Erik
Greeters	Helen Hundley, Jean Sides
Ushers	Christopher & Austin Simmons
Altar Care	Naomi Kindem, Esme Klinemeier
Communion Assistants	Naomi Kindem, Esme Klinemeier
Coffee Server	Creation Care Team
Production Techs	Alan Jarvimaki, Alex Wren
Counters	Jim Lukens, Kevin Klinemeier

## OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

*Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the Northwest region, and internationally through the ELCA!*

### **Offering Income received December 2025**

12/07/25	\$ 3,065.00
12/14/25	\$ 3,655.00
12/21/25	\$ 4,299.37
12/24/25	\$ 548.00
12/28/25	\$ 645.00
<u>Electronic</u>	<u>\$16,842.81</u>
	\$33,485.10

## THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Today, as we celebrate the waters of baptism, let us also consider how precious drinkable water is and why we cannot waste it. As the global population increases and our climate changes due to human activity, clean water is getting harder to come by in some places. By wasting less, we can help make sure there's enough to go around, now and in the future. When we waste food, we also waste the water used to grow and process it. So reducing food waste is one of the simplest ways to protect the creation. The water footprint of our food can surprise us – 2,412 glasses of water to produce a loaf of wheat bread and 1,000 glasses for one egg! Make a plan to reduce your food waste all year and imagine all

the water you'll be protecting. Want to know more? Visit <https://www.toogoodtogo.com/blog/how-food-waste-affects-water>.

**Pray for Creation:** We pray for the will to work in partnership to protect the precious, life-giving waters of the Cedar, Green, and Duwamish Rivers and Longfellow and Fauntleroy Creeks.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 25, 2026

**Sunday, January 26, is our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please add it to your calendar!** We will have options for people to join the meeting in person and through two online platforms. Following are some key dates to keep in mind as the day approaches.

- **JANUARY 13** – Church Council meets to finalize Annual Mtg agenda and 2026 budget proposal.
- **JANUARY 18** – Bulletin of Reports for Annual Meeting are available as PDF.
- **JANUARY 25** – Annual Potluck and Meeting following worship.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Please submit your 2025 annual reports to the office in digital form if you have not done so already.

## A LOOK AHEAD

Our Liturgical Frame during this Season after Epiphany comes from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl. Special emphases will be noted on January 18 – MLK Sunday and RIC Sunday (also our Pass the Hat Sunday for January – supporting Reconciling Works and LGBTQIA work among Lutheran congregations and ministries nationally.) Vicki Martinez and Dana Rice share the message on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Our congregational meeting (this year with POTLUCK!) will take place after worship on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026

Offering envelopes are available on the table in the narthex for those households who use them.

## ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL COMING UP

Would you like to serve as a member of our congregation's Church Council? There are leadership positions on the Council opening up in January. The council meets once a month to support our ongoing mission, including the discussion of budgets, policies, and the operations of the church. Church council members are the governing body of the church in between congregational meetings. They work as liaisons between the council and all the church committees and ministry teams. The council is comprised of a group of individuals who work hard to maintain a positive, Christian experience for everyone who attends Peace Lutheran Church. We need you! We are in need of 4 new council members—2 three-year positions, 1 two-year position and 1 one-year position. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a church council member please contact Marcia Olson, Chris Kindem, Elizabeth Menstell Coyle. Nominees must have been a member of Peace for 1 year. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting on January 25th.

## PRAYER LIST

**Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers:** **Sick/Recovering**: Georgia Apodoca; Marlen Boivin; Deric Bevier; Jan Burt; Cindy Collie; Vonda Cuchine; Justin Dexter; Jeffrey Epley; Pio Escame; Herman Fleck; Betty Fleck; Stephen Fuller; Barb G.; Jon Gault; Nick Griffin; Donna Heiland; Cade Howard; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Mel Jacob; Peter Kalen; Ken Keyes; Kari Kindem; Gordon Knight; Jason Knudsen; Lu Kramer; John Lindsay; Dan M; Evelyn Martinez; Carol Mikesell; Katrina Moore; Ginger Nehrbass; Kathy Peters; Melissa Peterson; Michelle Pierce; David Porch; Gail Price; Wes Price; Kelly Renfro; Sarah; Robert Shampain; Aaden Smith; Nancy Spannaus; Sarah Taylor; Benjamin Toso; Tracy and Ralph; Kristy W.; Angela Walker; Pam Webber; Megan Webber; Jeannette Whitworth; Willy; Paul Winterstein.

**Homebound:** Connie Benjamin; Joyce Bitner; Bob Gaines; Lu Kramer; Marjorie Johnson; Inta Zagars  
**PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST** We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

## RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

*Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness.*



*In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society. As a Christian community, we recognize that our congregation is strengthened by diversity, the embrace of equity, and our commitment to anti-racism.*

*We welcome and celebrate the inclusion of those of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression into the life and mission of our congregation. We invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives.*

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homeland of the DUWAMISH PEOPLE.** We recognize the DUWAMISH and other SALISH PEOPLES, the FIRST STEWARDS of this land, who have called this region home—and continue to call it home—from time immemorial. We join with them and with all people who see the Earth, its creatures, watersheds, and habitats, as part of an integral whole reflecting our Creator's intention for wholeness and balance.

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